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## Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, our God, we honor Your Name. You have been our help in ages past; you are our hope for the years to come.

Continue to guide our Senators with Your love. Answer them when they cry to You for assistance. Be for them a shade by day and a defense by night. May they exercise sound judgment as they listen closely to the whisper of Your wisdom that will keep them on the path that leads to life. May they trust in Your unfailing love to make the crooked places straight. Lord, give them the wisdom to permit godliness to fill their lives with light and joy.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we live in partisan times, but there are moments when we can break through the typical divisions and work together on matters of real urgency. The anti-Asian hate crimes legislation this week is such a matter. It is a very straightforward and relatively modest bill to address a pressing and important issue in the country. It would designate a point person at the Justice Department to identify hate crimes towards Asian Americans related to COVID-19—telling Federal law enforcement to make these hate crimes a top priority during the pandemic.

Just as important, it would send a strong message to two groups: to the Asian-American community that the country is paying attention to them and to all of America that this kind of bigotry cannot be tolerated.

I was gratified to hear the Republican leader yesterday say that the Senate Republican conference wanted to move forward on the bill.

This bill was never intended to be some kind of “gotcha” legislation. It is led by Senators HIRONO and DUCKWORTH, two outstanding Asian-American Senators who rightfully want to respond to the rising tide of anti-Asian violence over the past year. When they asked me to move the bill quickly, I thought that was exactly the right thing to do, and here it is on the floor.

The fact that Leader MCCONNELL said yesterday he believes discrimination against Asian Americans is a real problem and wants to move forward and be constructive is a very good thing, and I salute him for it. The entire Senate ought to stand up against the recent surge of anti-Asian violence. We can take the first step later today by voting to proceed to the legislation.

As I said yesterday, my intention is to have a bipartisan amendment process, beginning with the amendment of-

fered by Senators MORAN and BLUMENTHAL—one a Republican and one a Democrat. In consultation with the Republican leader, we can work out an agreement on other germane, non-“gotcha” amendments to the bill if Senators have them. We should be able and should really try in earnest to reach a final resolution and pass the bill through the Senate very, very soon.

### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, taking a step back for a moment, this is how the process should work in a closely divided Senate. If the Republican minority allows the Senate to move forward with a bill where we have shared priorities, the Democratic majority will work to set up a process for the Senate to consider germane amendments from both sides.

That is the essence of the organizing resolution we all agreed to earlier this year, and hopefully it is a process we can repeat. In fact, we will test that proposition on the very next piece of legislation. If we are able to finish the anti-Asian hate crimes bill in a timely manner, I will move next to consider a bipartisan water infrastructure bill.

The bill, the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act, was advanced by the Environment and Public Works Committee on a unanimous-unanimous-vote. It will authorize tens of billions of dollars to make sure American families, especially low-income families, have access to safe and clean drinking water. I salute Senator CARPER, the chair of the committee, as well as Senator CAPITO, the ranking Republican on the committee, for coming together on such an important and necessary bill.

So, in addition to further nominations, it is my intention to move the bipartisan water infrastructure bill next week.

As the country turns the corner from COVID-19, our focus will soon shift to

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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